

Losses Suffered in Tea Export

29. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country lost its tea export market in Libya due to allegedly sub-standard tea which was not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been held in this matter;

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter against the erring persons; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) to (d) Libya is not a stable market for Indian tea. Export of tea to Libya during the last five years were as follows:-

Year	Quantity in m. kgs.
1996	0.05
1997	1.65
1998	6.98
1999	Nil
2000	3.63

Indian Embassy, Tripoli in the month of August, 2000 informed about supply of unsatisfactory quality of tea to Libyan National Supply Corporation (NASCO) by an Indian Exporter.

Tea Board Initially obtained views of the Indian exporter on the allegation of supply of sub-standard tea and subsequently issued show cause notice to the exporter for suspension/cancellation of tea Exporter Licence granted under Tea (Distribution and Export)

Control Order 1957. The Indian exporter, in reply to the show cause notice has stated that he has not received any complaint directly from NASCO. Tea Board has therefore requested Embassy of India, Tripoli to obtain and forward a copy of the written complaint, if any, against the exporter by NASCO.

Basmati exports to E.U.

30. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Indian basmati exports to E.U. under threat" appearing in the Business Standard dated the 9th January, 2001;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems raised in the newsitem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) Yes, Sir;

(b) and (c) Government have conveyed its strong reservations to the Rice Reform proposals of the EU. under which the Indian Basmati rice exports could get affected, through various meetings at the EU as well as to the Member countries through our Missions abroad.

Norms for Payment .of Spectrum Charges

31. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has been paying spectrum charges to Government;

(b) if so, since when;